

**In the Claims:**

The following is a list of claims currently pending in this application and their current status. This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings in this application.

1-13. (Cancelled)

14. (Previously presented) A method of extending a definition of a first tag used in a first electronic document, wherein the first electronic document is encoded in a markup language, and the first electronic document is stored on a server in a computer network, the method comprising:

defining the first tag in a first schema, wherein the definition of the first tag includes a plurality of elements from the markup language;

defining a second tag in a second schema, wherein a definition of the second tag includes

a reference to the first tag that identifies the first tag as being extended; and

an additional element from the markup language;

providing references for locating the first schema and second schema in the first electronic document, wherein the second tag is polymorphically used to encode text within the first electronic document, whereby the first and second schemas respectively allow use of the first or second tag.

15. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

parsing the first electronic document, wherein the first electronic document is parsed by a parser for the markup language, the parser being stored on the server.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Previously presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the markup language is XML.

18. (Previously presented) The method of claim 17, wherein the first electronic

document corresponds to at least one of a purchase order, a purchase order acknowledgement, an order status check, an availability check, a price check, an invoice, an invoice acknowledgement.

19. (Cancelled)

20. (Original) The method of claim 14, further comprising:

accessing the second schema in a second electronic document, wherein the second tag is used to encode the second electronic document.

21. (Previously presented) The method of claim 20, further comprising:

parsing the second electronic document, wherein the second electronic document is parsed by a parser for the markup language, the parser being stored on the server.

22. (Original) The method of claim 21, wherein the markup language is XML.

23. (Previously presented) The method of claim 22, wherein the second electronic document corresponds to a commercial transaction.

24. (Original) The method of claim 23, wherein the commercial transaction is selected from the group consisting of a purchase order, a purchase order acknowledgement, an order status check, an availability check, a price check, an invoice, an invoice acknowledgement.

25. (Currently amended) A computer network system for processing a document instance of a markup language, the computer network system comprising:

means for defining a first tag, including a plurality of elements from a markup language, in a first schema in the computer network system;

means for polymorphically extending a definition of the first tag by use of a second schema residing on the computer network system, the second schema defining a second tag by reference to the first tag that incorporates in the second schema the plurality of elements from the markup language and by including additional elements;

means for importing the second schema into the document instance.

26. (Original) The computer network system of claim 25, wherein the markup language is XML.

27.-29. (Cancelled)

30. (Previously presented) The computer network system of claim 25, further comprising:

means for using an extension of the first tag, wherein the extension of the first tag is used in a location reserved for the first tag in the document instance.

31.-35. (Cancelled)

36. (Previously presented) A method of extending a definition of a first tag used in a first electronic document, wherein the first electronic document is encoded in a markup language, and the first electronic document is stored on a server in a computer network, the method comprising:

defining the first tag in a first schema;

defining a second tag in a second schema, wherein a definition of the second tag includes a reference to the first tag and an additional tag from the markup language;

providing references for locating the first schema and second schema in the first electronic document, wherein the first and second tags are polymorphically available to encode text within the first electronic document;

whereby an application designed to work with the first tag can process the text encoded using the second tag, when the encoding is within the scope of the first tag, without modifying the application, whereby document types and applications can evolve separately.

37. (Previously presented) The method of claim 36, wherein the first and second schemas reside on separate servers.